

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING IN
MOSCOW

REF: (A) STATE 134334, (B) MOSCOW 11158

1. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MAY 30, LEONID N. SAVITSKY, DEPUTY CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF USSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SAID HE IS HARD AT WORK ON PLANS FOR ICC MEETING IN MOSCOW, JUNE 25-28. SAVITSKY TOLD E/C COUNSELOR THAT CHAMBER HAS HAD PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT THE MEETING, DESPITE THE WISHES OF THE ICC FOR MINIMUM PUBLICITY. HE DENIED THAT THE MEETING WAS A SOVIET IDEA AND WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO SAY WHAT THE SOVIET OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE IN INVITING SO MANY HIGH RANKING WESTERN BUSINESSMEN TO MOSCOW. SAVITSKY DID SAY THAT THE SOVIETS WANTED ONLY THE DECISION-MAKING LEVEL TO ATTEND AND IMPLIED SOMEWHAT VAGUELY THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS SOME CONCRETE BUSINESS PROPOSALS WITH THE VISITORS. HE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS WOULD "CERTAINLY" HAPPEN.

2. SAVITSKY WAS SIMILARLY HAZY ABOUT LIKELY SOVIET PARTICIPATION BEYOND THAT WHICH FORMER ASSISTANT SECRET-
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ARY ARMSTRONG HAD MENTIONED. HE ALSO WAS DISINCLINED TO DISCUSS PROSPECTIVE FOREIGN VISITORS, ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED THAT WOLF VON AMERUNGEN WOULD BE AMONG THE GERMANS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE EAST EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION, SAVITSKY SAID THERE WOULD BE NONE SAVE USSR BUT COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY.

3. SAVITSKY SAID HE WAS EXPECTING ICC STAFF REPRESENTATIVE EMILSSON THE SAME DAY. (EMILSSON TELEPHONED EMBASSY JUNE 1 PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, BUT E/C COUNSELOR WAS OUT. EMILSSON LEFT WORD THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING JUNE 12.)

4. COMMENT: WHILE SAVITSKY IS ONLY A FUNCTIONARY, HE SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO KNOW WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE MEETING FROM THE WESTERN AND SOVIET SIDES. WE INTERPRET HIS RETICENCE ON THIS SUBJECT AS AN INDICATION THAT SELECTION IS STILL IN PROCESS AND NOT TOO MUCH IS KNOWN. SINCE THE SELECTION OF WESTERN EXECUTIVES IS BEING LEFT TO THE ICC, WE ASSUME THAT ONE PRIMARY SOVIET PURPOSE IN HOSTING THE MEETING IS TO PRODUCE SOME GENERAL, HIGH-LEVEL ENDORSEMENT OF EAST/WEST TRADE, INCLUDING CONFIDENCE IN THE USSR AS A TRADE PARTNER, RATHER THAN TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROJECTS. SOVIET EXCLUSION OF EAST EUROPEANS COULD BE VIEWED EITHER AS AN EFFORT TO ACT AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE OTHERS - WITH OR WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT OR SIMPLY TO IGNORE THEM. THE DESIRE FOR MINIMAL PUBLICITY FOR THIS MEETING, IF SAVITSKY IS CORRECTLY REFLECTING ICC VIEWS, SEEMS UNLIKELY TO BE SATISFIED BOTH BECAUSE PRES INTEREST WILL BE ALL THE GREATER IF IT PERCEIVES AN EMPHASIS ON PRIVACY AND BECAUSE THE SOVIETS CHARACTERISTICALLY DO NOT HIDE PROMINENT WESTERN BUSINESS VISITORS UNDER A BUSHEL. MATLOCK

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